

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving digital content and metadata associated with the digital content;

receiving publication information associated with the digital content, the publication

information including distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors to

be notified about the received digital content;

~~producing protected digital content;~~ and

sending ~~a message including~~ the metadata and publication information to a first

computing system for storage.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving digital content includes receiving digital content from a digital content management (DCM) system.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving publication information includes receiving publication information using a graphical user interface (GUI).

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein publication information includes at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 504 wherein producing protected digital content includes encrypting the digital content and storing the encrypted digital content into a file transfer protocol (FTP) directory such that the digital content is accessible over a network.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 504 wherein producing protected digital content includes encrypting the digital content and storing the encrypted digital content into a real server transfer protocol (RSTP) directory such that the digital content is capable of being streamed over a network.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 504 further comprising producing thumbnail information associated with the digital content and storing the thumbnail information into a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) directory such that the thumbnail information is accessible over a network.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 50 wherein producing protected digital content includes controlling access to the digital content over a network.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein controlling access includes using an XrML license.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein sending includes sending a rights-label to a digital content rights management system (DRM), wherein the rights-label includes metadata and publication information associated with the digital content.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~alerting~~ notifying a digital content distributor of the availability of the metadata and publication information associated with the digital content, the content distributor being one of the identified content distributors.

14. (currently amended) A digital content publication apparatus comprising:
a memory unit; and
a processor configured to:
receive digital content and metadata associated with digital content,

receive publication information associated with the digital content, the publication information including distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors to be notified about the received digital content,

~~produce protected digital content,~~

~~store the protected digital content,~~ and

send a ~~message including~~ the metadata and publication information to a first computing system for storage.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to receive digital content from a digital content management (DCM) system.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to receive publication information using a graphical user interface (GUI).

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein publication information includes at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to encrypt the digital content and store the encrypted digital content into a file transfer protocol (FTP) directory such that the digital content is accessible over a network.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to encrypt the digital content and store the encrypted digital content into a real server transfer protocol (RSTP) directory such that the digital content is capable of being streamed over a network.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to produce thumbnail information associated with the digital content and store the thumbnail information into a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) directory such that the thumbnail information is accessible over a network.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to control access to the digital content over a network.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the control access includes using an XrML license.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to send includes sending a rights-label to a digital content rights management (DRM) system, wherein the rights-label includes metadata and publication information associated with the digital content.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is further configured to ~~alert~~ notify a digital content distributor of the availability of the metadata and publication information associated with the digital content, the digital content distributor being one of the identified content distributors.

27. (currently amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

receive publication information associated with digital content, in response to receiving the digital content and metadata associated with the digital content, the publication information including distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors to be notified about the received digital content;

~~produce protected digital content;~~ and

send ~~a message including~~ the metadata and publication information to a first computing system for storage.

28. (currently amended) The article of claim 53 ~~27~~ further comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content wherein the digital content is received from a digital content management (DCM) system.

29. (original) The article of claim 27 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to receive publication information using a graphical user interface (GUI).

30. (currently amended) The article of claim 53 ~~27~~ comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content, wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

31. (currently amended) The article of claim 53 ~~27~~ comprising instructions for causing the computer to protect the digital content, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

32. (currently amended) The article of claim 53 ~~27~~ comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content, wherein the publication information includes at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

33. (currently amended) The article of claim 53 ~~27~~ comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content including instructions to encrypt the digital content and store the encrypted digital content into a file transfer protocol (FTP) directory such that the digital content is accessible over a network.

34. (currently amended) The article of claim 53 ~~27~~ comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content including instructions to encrypt the digital content and store the encrypted digital content into a real server transfer protocol (RSTP) directory such that the digital content is capable of being streamed over a network.

35. (currently amended) The article of claim 53 ~~27~~ comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content including instructions to produce thumbnail information associated with the digital content and to store the thumbnail information into a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) directory such that the thumbnail information is accessible over a network.

36. (currently amended) The article of claim 53 ~~27~~ comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content including instructions to control access to the digital content over a network.

37. (original) The article of claim 36 comprising instructions for causing the computer to control access includes instructions for controlling access using an XrML license.

38. (original) The article of claim 27 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to send a rights-label to a digital content rights management (DRM) system, wherein the rights-label includes metadata and publication information associated with the digital content.

39. (currently amended) The article of claim 27 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to ~~alert~~ notify a digital content distributor of the availability of the metadata and publication information associated with the digital content, the digital content distributor being one of the identified content distributors.

40. (currently amended) A system comprising digital content management (DCM) computer configured to:

a digital content management (DCM) computer configured to send digital content and metadata associated with the digital content to a digital content publication (DCP) computer, in response to a request by the DCP computer; and

a digital rights management (DRM) computer configured to receive metadata and publication information from the DCP computer, and store the metadata and the publication information, the publication information including distribution information that identifies one or more content distributors to be notified about the digital content.

41. (currently amended) The system computer of claim 40 further comprising a DCM computer configured to:

send the metadata, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) The system computer of claim 40, 42 configured to:

~~store the metadata,~~ wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

44. (currently amended) The system computer of claim 40, 42 configured to:

~~store publication information,~~ wherein the publication information further includes at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

45. (canceled)

46. (canceled)

47. (canceled)

48. (canceled)

49. (canceled)

50. (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising protecting the received digital content to generate protected digital content.

51. (new) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the received digital content is protected to generate protected digital content.

52. (new) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the protected digital content is stored.

53. (new) The article of claim 27 comprising instructions for causing the computer to produce protected digital content.

54. (new) A computer-implemented method for distribution of digital content comprising:

storing metadata for the content in association with publication information for the content, the publication information identifying one or more content distributors for the content; and

enabling secure distribution of the content according to the stored publication
information.

55. (new) The method of claim 54, wherein enabling secure distribution comprises:
generating a protected version of the content;
using the metadata and the publication information to control access to the protected
content.